

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2004

The City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee met on Thursday, September 30, 2004 in the Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present:	Greg Castano, Michael Goodno, Katherine Kelly, Laurie Kelly, Larry Rubin, Susan Solarz
Alternate Members Present:	None
Members Absent:	Nicole Le Boeuf, Robert Patten
Staff Present:	Ilona Blanchard, Associate Planner
Others Present:	None

1. Review of Meeting #1 minutes

In the absence of elected officials the staff person began the meeting at 7:05. After two minor corrections, a motion to accept the minutes as amended was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30. After some discussion the motion was seconded. A second motion was made and seconded to begin future meetings at 6:30 and end meetings at 8:30. Both motions passed.

Staff distributed item descriptions from the County CIP Transportation Section and committed to providing additional capital project funding materials at the next meeting.

2. Review of Safe Roadways Committee Ordinance and Questions raised at the previous meeting by the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the memo from staff, which answered questions that had been raised at the prior meeting.

The Committee asked the Staff to prepare a paper or list of existing Council positions on transportation related issues.

3. Consideration of Proposed By-Laws

Staff reviewed the issues that had been raised at the prior meeting concerning the By-Laws. A motion was made to accept the By-Laws and the motion was seconded. All present were in favor.

4. November Meeting (18th)

As the November meeting falls on a holiday, staff suggested holding the meeting on November 18th instead of the 11th. A motion was made and passed. L. Rubin suggested that the Committee introduce itself to the Public Safety Committee which would be meeting at 7:30. The Safe Roadways Committee accepted this suggestion and planned to combine the end of the meeting with the beginning of the Public Safety Committee meeting.

5. Listserv

L. Kelly had suggested that a Listserv be set up for members to communicate with each other. As there were so few members of the Committee, the member retracted the suggestion with the suggestion to use a group list so that no one person would have to manage the listserv.

6. Election of Officers

K. Kelly volunteered to be a temporary Chair until such time as there was a meeting with all members present at which point a Chair would be elected. L. Rubin volunteered to be a Co-Chair. A suggestion was made that the Secretary be a rotating position and that a laptop be obtained from the City Clerk to take the minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Katherine Kelly as temporary Chair, Larry Rubin as Vice-Chair, and to rotate Secretary responsibilities. (Note added: There is a second Vice-Chair position open.)

7. Discussion of Initiative/Strategic Planning Ideas

The committee used the dry erase board to list ideas and suggestions.

K.Kelly – I would like to put up the projects that were listed last week.

G. Castano – What are we supposed to do? Are we supposed to develop a strategic plan as indicated in the ordinance? Do we have any money to do anything? Are we supposed to do any projects?

L. Rubin—It appears to be wide open.

G. Castano—It seems like we should have three areas that we work on, such as policy, small projects and long term projects.

S. Solarz-Maybe we can get advice from planners? There seems to be overlap in the themes, desired outcomes, etc. in all the plans and reports that we have

read, e.g. they all want more transportation options. It seems pretty clear that we need a good faith action, and it should be where it will affect a ton of people. We should look where the themes overlap and repeat themselves between all the documents. There are regions that come up over and over such as New Hampshire, University Avenue, the Metro Area...

G. Castano-That is a new category.

Some of these areas already have projects in the works, and we should be aware of them.

K. Kelly- I work with the transportation committee in Rockville and the Committee there can provide policy, advice, and support to staff.

K. Kelly- In the short term (in Rockville) we are surveying activity centers for accessibility issues and ensuring that they are accessible.

L. Rubin- 3 points-(1) Discussions and recommendations about traffic calming devices, such as bulb outs, passive measures, rumble strips. Talking about traffic calming devices and make recommendations that City needs more x and less y. Passive traffic calming devices need more research.

(2) Feasibility of Truck Route or way to get heavy traffic outside of Takoma Park. (I. Blanchard – it may be feasible to work on making State Highway routes less desirable for heavy traffic, rather than limiting traffic or creating new routes as State Highway is committed to their roads as thru-ways. L. Rubin - same thing)

(3) A project for New Hampshire & University Avenues

G. Castano – Minimum of data required to measure indicators. Performance measures are needed. We should push for projects with a multi-modal aspect.

M. Goodno- Develop a checklist for why not developed, or developed, or a matrix.

L. Kelly – Agreed with many of the points from the last meeting. Thinks that the purple line and the possibility of the Purple line has delayed action because people are waiting for it to make changes.

There are so many pedestrians.

Safe roads to school has great potential.

Would like to see a walk or bike to school (walking school bus).

State highways need more speed enforcement.

L. Rubin- Can't get money, this is a standing request at MML, to have speeding ticket revenue to the enforcing agency, not the state.

I. Blanchard-one of the City staff members would like to see a project that inventories transportation condition.

Committee members-why?

I. Blanchard – the would set a baseline and also because the City, County, and State repairs and maintenance are generally complaint driven, meaning, no one knows what problems are or fixes them until a citizen complains. There may be many items in a point of disrepair that once noted could be easily fixed, improving transportation.

L. Rubin- I think that we should pare down and prioritize for next week.

K. Kelly we should look at each proposal and set up implementation steps and financing/materials needed to accomplish in order to determine which we can do.

S. Solarz- can we get copies of all the committee priorities and then combine any projects with any other committee in order to get more “bang for the buck”? It looks like many committees may have overlapping agendas.

I. Blanchard – I will do my best to coordinate with other committee staff people so that when there are opportunities both committees are invited to collaborate on projects.

8. Adjourn

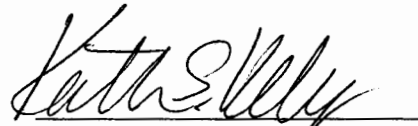
A motion was made and seconded at 8:30 and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted



Ilona Blanchard, Associate Planner

Approved



Katherine Kelly, Chairperson
(Temporary)